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Article

Antenna/Body Coupling in the Near-Field at 60 GHz: Impact on the Absorbed Power Density

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Abstract: Wireless devices, such as smartphones, tablets, and laptops, are intended to be used in the vicinity of the human body. When an antenna is placed close to a lossy medium, near-field interactions may modify the electromagnetic field distribution. Here, we analyze analytically and numerically the impact of antenna/human body interactions on the transmitted power density (TPD) at 60 GHz using a skin-equivalent model. To this end, several scenarios of increasing complexity are considered: plane-wave illumination, equivalent source, and patch antenna arrays. Our results demonstrate that, for all considered scenarios, the presence of the body in the vicinity of a source results in an increase in the average TPD. The local TPD enhancement due to the body presence close to a patch antenna array reaches 95.5% for an adult (dry skin). The variations are higher for wet skin (up to 98.25%) and for children (up to 103.3%). Both absolute value and spatial distribution of TPD are altered by the antenna/body coupling. These results suggest that the exact distribution of TPD cannot be retrieved from measurements of the incident power density in free-space in absence of the body. Therefore, for accurate measurements of the absorbed and epithelial power density (metrics used as the main dosimetric quantities at frequencies > 6 GHz), it is important to perform measurements under conditions where the wireless device under test is perturbed in the same way as by the presence of the human body in realistic use case scenarios.

Keywords: exposure assessment; millimeter waves; antennas; near-field interactions; dosimetry; power density

1. Introduction

The increasing need for high data rate mobile communications, mainly driven by video streaming and cloud computing, has led to fast development of heterogeneous fifth-generation (5G) cellular mobile networks expected to exploit the lower part of the millimeter-wave (mmW) band. In particular, the 60-GHz band has been identified as an attractive solution for radio access and backhauling in the future mmW systems [1]. The deployment of mmW small cells will allow for larger channel bandwidth, higher data rates, secure short-range communications, low interference with adjacent cells, and compact systems [2–5].

Wireless devices, such as mobile phones, tablets, and laptops are intended to be used in the vicinity of the human body (e.g., phone call or browsing scenarios), and they should comply with the exposure limits. Below 6 GHz, the specific absorption rate (SAR) is used as the main dosimetric quantity [6,7]. In the 6–300 GHz range, the electromagnetic energy is deposited predominantly in superficial tissues (the penetration depth is approximately 0.5 mm at 60 GHz [8–11]). As a consequence, the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (IEEE) recommend, respectively, the absorbed power density

and epithelial power density as the main dosimetric quantities. Both the ICNIRP and IEEE set the limits to 10 mW/cm^2 for occupational environments (referred to as restricted environments in the IEEE standard), and 2 mW/cm^2 for the general public (referred to as unrestricted environments in the IEEE standard). Above 6 GHz, the power density is to be averaged over 4 cm^2 and 6 min. Moreover, from 30 to 300 GHz, the power density is to be averaged over 1 cm^2 and must not exceed two times the exposure limit for 4 cm^2 . The existing dosimetry systems [12–14] are designed to measure the incident power density in free space close to a wireless device under test. In [12], the incident power density is obtained from the measurement of the magnitude and polarization of the E-field, whereas in [13] it is determined from the measurement of both the E- and H-field using the two-probe method. Both [12] and [13] use field probes from 6 to 110 GHz allowing for measurements down to 2 mm and 0.5 mm from the device under test, respectively. The system presented in [14] uses a multi-probe technology combined with switching networks for spherical near-field measurements in the 18–50 GHz range to retrieve the incident power density. When an antenna is placed in the vicinity of a lossy medium, such as human skin, electromagnetic contrast at the air/skin interface results in the appearance of scattered field and near field interactions, which modify the field impinging the human body compared to the free-space radiation [15,16]. Hence, in free-space measurements of the incident power density, variations of the power density due to the coupling of a wireless device with the human body are not taken into account. This coupling may impact the power absorption in the human body as well as resulting heating [17].

Various aspects related to the interactions of mmWs with the human body have been reviewed in the literature. The study performed in [18] for a terminal with a 60-GHz antenna module for several representative human body exposure scenarios, showed that both hand and head, located in the antenna near-field region, significantly affect the antenna reflection coefficient, radiation pattern, and efficiency. The alteration of the antenna radiation characteristics by the human body in the near-field may therefore affect the total field impinging the body. At lower microwave frequencies (i.e., 900 and 1900 MHz), studies performed to assess the influence of the source/phantom interactions on the transmitted field, demonstrated that the electric field may be significantly modified depending on the position of the antenna in respect to the phantom (decrease down to 25% and enhancement up to two times of the electric field amplitude at 900-MHz for a dipole and mobile terminal, respectively) [15,16]. On the other hand, a study conducted mainly at 24 GHz, with some results at 60 GHz, showed that the source/body interaction is relatively weak (enhancement by 10% of the squared E-field for a dipole array with four elements at 60 GHz) [19]; however, only electrically small antennas were investigated in that study. The impact on the transmitted to the body field is expected to be higher for wireless devices equipped with larger antennas (e.g., patch antenna arrays).

The main purpose of this study is to analyze the impact of the antenna/human body interactions in the near-field on the transmitted power density (TPD) at 60 GHz. For the first time, the fundamental limits in terms of enhancement and decrease in the TPD are investigated. Sources of increasing complexity are compared, including plane waves with and without free-space losses, antenna-equivalent sources, and patch antenna arrays. For antenna arrays, the role of the directivity and ground plane dimensions are also investigated.

2. Materials and Methods

We define here the exposure scenarios considered in this study. Then, the analytical and numerical methods used for exposure assessment are presented.

2.1. Exposure Scenarios

To analyze variations of TPD in the skin-equivalent model due to the presence of a radiating structure, seven scenarios of increasing complexity are considered (Figure 1). Scenarios 1–4 are considered to determine the fundamental limits of TPD variations for a plane-wave excitation. In scenarios 5 and 6, we model the radiation pattern of antennas neglecting the impact of the phantom

and a perfect electric conductor (PEC) on the antenna performances. Finally, antennas placed close to the skin-equivalent model are considered in scenario 7. These scenarios are detailed hereafter.

- Scenario 1: Plane-wave incident from free space onto a semi-infinite flat skin-equivalent model (Figure 1a).

Normal incidence is considered to represent the worst-case exposure scenario with maximum TPD [20]. Due to a shallow penetration depth at mmWs (<1 mm), the interaction with the human body is mainly limited to skin. As a consequence, a homogenous skin-equivalent layer is used as a model [21,22]. The dielectric properties of skin-equivalent model are those of dry skin at 60 GHz ($\epsilon = 7.98 - j10.90$); they were extracted from [23]. For completeness, we also provide in the paper the main results for a wet skin model ($\epsilon = 10.22 - j11.83$ [23]).

- Scenario 2: Scenario 1 adding a perfect electric conductor (PEC) parallel to the skin model (Figure 1b).

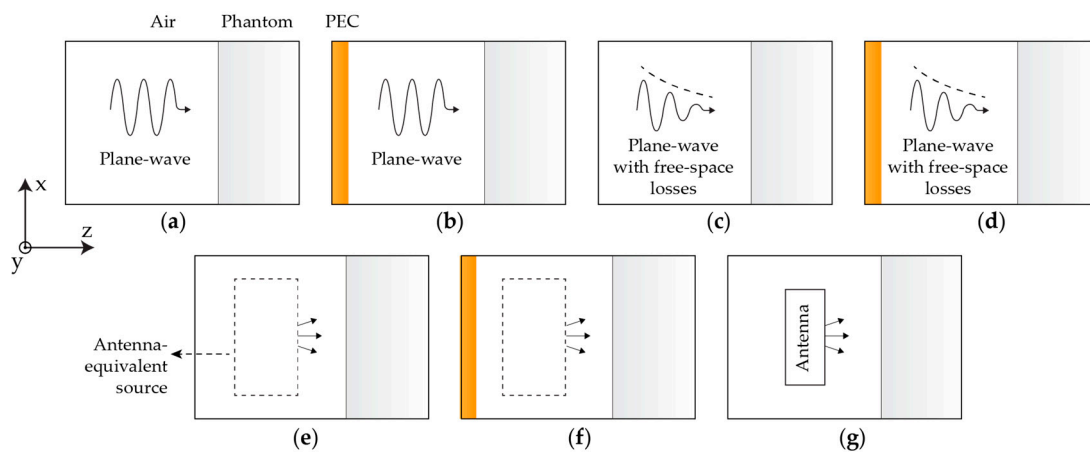


Figure 1. Schematic representation of considered exposure scenarios: (a) scenario 1; (b) scenario 2; (c) scenario 3; (d) scenario 4; (e) scenario 5; (f) scenario 6; (g) scenario 7. PEC: perfect electric conductor.

The total transmitted field ($\mathbf{E}_{\text{Total}}, \text{TPD}_{\text{Total}}$) is equal to the superposition of the transmitted field from direct incidence ($\mathbf{E}_{\text{Direct}}, \text{TPD}_{\text{Direct}}$) and the scattered field resulting from multiple reflections at the PEC/skin-model interfaces ($\mathbf{E}_{\text{R}}, \text{TPD}_{\text{R}}$).

- Scenario 3: Scenario 1 with free-space losses (i.e., the amplitude of the plane-wave is attenuated in free space) (Figure 1c).

The amplitude of the electric field radiated by an infinitesimal dipole decreases as $1/d$ in the far-field, where d is the distance between the source and the observation point. Hence, we assume in this scenario that the amplitude of the incident E-field decreases with an attenuation function $f(d) = 1/d$.

- Scenario 4: Scenario 2 with free-space losses (Figure 1d).
- Scenario 5: Scenario 1 with an antenna equivalent source replacing the plane-wave illumination (Figure 1e).

The antenna equivalent source is defined as a combination of equivalent electric and magnetic currents flowing on a closed surface surrounding the antenna (dashed line in Figure 1e) generating the same electromagnetic field as the antenna in free space.

- Scenario 6: Scenario 2 with the antenna equivalent source replacing the plane-wave illumination (Figure 1f).

- Scenario 7: Realistic antennas placed in the vicinity of the skin model (Figure 1g).

The source main beam is directed towards the phantom representing the worst-case exposure scenario. Several sources have been considered: single patch antenna (SPA) and patch antenna array (PAA) with 4, 8, or 16 (2×2 PAA, 2×4 PAA, and 4×4 PAA, respectively) radiating elements, inspired from [10,24] (Figures 2 and 3) and matched to 50Ω in free-space at 60 GHz. All results are provided for an antenna input power of 10 mW.

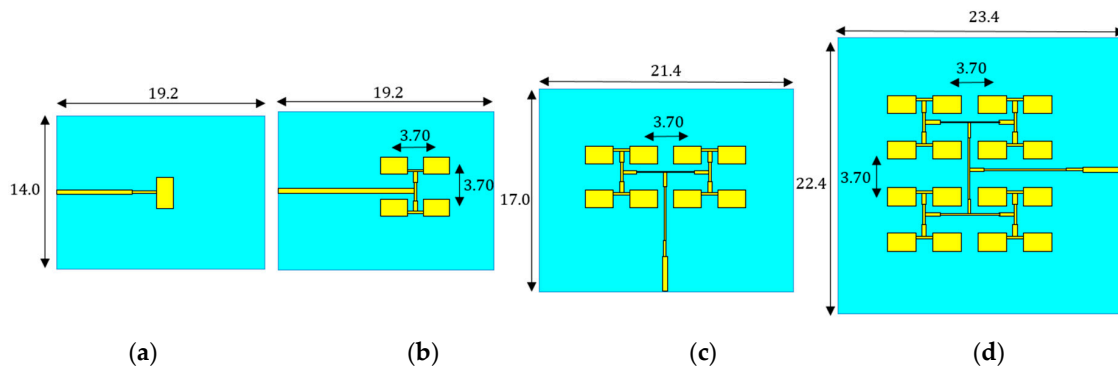


Figure 2. Antenna topologies: (a) single patch antenna (SPA); (b) 2×2 patch antenna array (2×2 PAA); (c) 2×4 patch antenna array (2×4 PAA); (d) 4×4 patch antenna array (4×4 PAA). Dimensions are in mm.

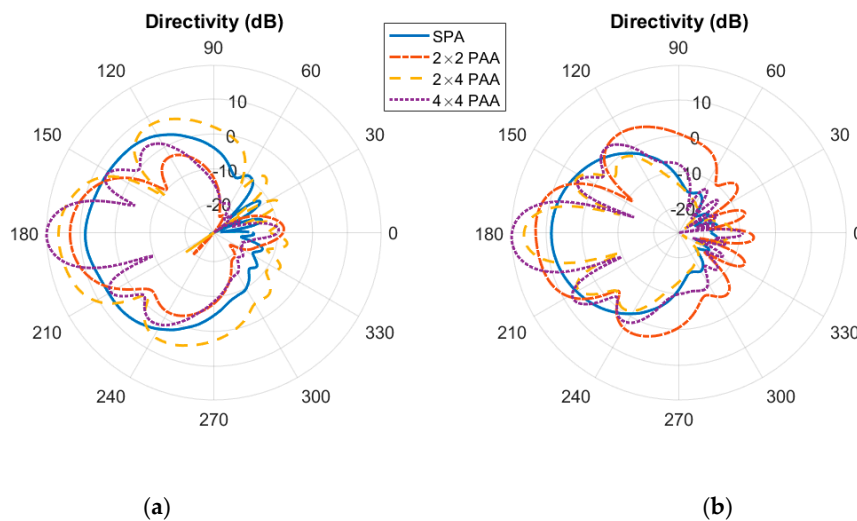


Figure 3. Radiation pattern of patch antenna arrays: (a) E-plane; (b) H-plane.

2.2. Analytical Method: Plane Wave Illumination

The problem of a normally-incident plane wave (scenarios 1–4) at a planar interface between free space and a lossy region representing skin was solved analytically in [25]. Without loss, the electric field is given by:

$$\mathbf{E}_{\text{inc}} = E_0 e^{-jk_0 d} \hat{x}, \tag{1}$$

where E_0 is the amplitude of the electric field, k_0 is the free space wavenumber, and d is the normal distance between the plane-wave source and skin model interface. Assuming that the plane wave is attenuated in free space, its E-field vector is given by:

$$\mathbf{E}'_{\text{inc}} = E_0 e^{-jk_0 d} f(d) \hat{x}, \tag{2}$$

where $f(d)$ is an attenuation function. The transmitted E-field vector (\mathbf{E}_{tr}) at the phantom interface is therefore expressed as [25] (Appendix A):

Scenario 1 :

$$\mathbf{E}_{tr} = T_1 \mathbf{E}_{inc} , \tag{3}$$

Scenario 2:

$$\mathbf{E}_{tr} = T_1 \frac{1}{1 + e^{-j2dk_0} R_1} \mathbf{E}_{inc} , \tag{4}$$

Scenario 3:

$$\mathbf{E}_{tr} = T_1 \mathbf{E}'_{inc} , \tag{5}$$

Scenario 4:

$$\mathbf{E}_{tr} = T_1 \mathbf{E}'_{inc} + T_1 E_0 e^{-jdk_0} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-e^{-j2dk_0} R_1)^n f((2n + 1)d) \hat{x} , \tag{6}$$

where T_1 and R_1 are the transmission and reflection coefficients, respectively, calculated using Fresnel coefficients at the free space/skin model interface [25]. The TPD for a plane-wave can be computed as:

$$TPD = \text{Re} \left[\frac{|\mathbf{E}_{tr}|^2}{\eta} \right] , \tag{7}$$

where η is the complex intrinsic impedance of the skin.

2.3. Analytical Method: Equivalent Source

For scenarios 5 and 6, the electric field was modeled analytically using the plane-wave spectrum theory [26–28]. It represents the spatial distribution of each field component over a transverse plane as a superposition of the plane waves propagating along different directions defined by the couplet $\mathbf{K} = k_x \hat{x} + k_y \hat{y}$, also called the plane wave spectrum (PWS). The PWS of an electric field phasor component $\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{R}, z_0)$ over a plane Ψ identified by $z = z_0$ and $\mathbf{R} = x\hat{x} + y\hat{y}$ is expressed as:

$$\hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{K}, z_0) = \int_{\mathbf{R}} \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{R}, z_0) e^{j\mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{R}} d\mathbf{R} . \tag{8}$$

The strength of this approach is its ability to represent the propagation of a complex field topography through space. The PWS over any plane parallel to Ψ located at distance l in a homogenous medium is computed by multiplying the PWS at $z = z_0$ by the propagator $P(\mathbf{K}, l) = e^{-jk_z l}$:

$$\hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{K}, z_0 + l) = \hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{K}, z_0) P(\mathbf{K}, l) , \tag{9}$$

where k_z is the longitudinal propagation constant given as $k_z = \sqrt{k^2 - |\mathbf{K}|^2}$, \mathbf{k} is the propagation constant.

For exposure scenario 5, the tangential spectrum components of the incident and transmitted fields at the air/phantom interface are related as:

$$\hat{\mathbf{E}}_{tr}^{\parallel}(\mathbf{K}) = \mathbf{\Pi}_1 \hat{\mathbf{E}}_{inc}^{\parallel}(\mathbf{K}) , \tag{10}$$

where $\mathbf{\Pi}_1$ is the spectral transmission operator given in [26]. The normal field spectrum component is obtained from the tangential field spectra $\hat{\mathbf{E}}^{\parallel}$ using the Gauss law:

$$\hat{\mathbf{E}}_z = -\frac{\mathbf{K} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{E}}^{\parallel}}{k_z} . \tag{11}$$

For exposure case 6, the total transmitted field spectrum is given as (refer to Appendix A for more details):

$$\hat{\mathbf{E}}_{\text{tr}}^{\parallel}(\mathbf{K}) = \mathbf{\Pi}_1(\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{K}, 2d)\mathbf{\Gamma}_1)^{-1}\hat{\mathbf{E}}_{\text{inc}}^{\parallel}(\mathbf{K}), \tag{12}$$

where \mathbf{I} is the identity matrix, d is the PEC–phantom separation distance, $\mathbf{\Gamma}_1$ is the spectral reflection coefficients at the phantom interface given in [26]. The H-field spectrum is calculated as [28]:

$$\hat{\mathbf{H}}_{\text{tr}(m)} = \frac{1}{\mu\omega}(\mathbf{k}) \times \left(\hat{\mathbf{E}}_{\text{tr}} \right). \tag{13}$$

The spatial field components (\mathbf{E} and \mathbf{H}) are retrieved using the inverse Fourier transform of the field spectra. The TPD is calculated as [6]:

$$\text{TPD} = \iint_A \text{Re}[\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H}^*] \cdot \frac{d\mathbf{s}}{A}, \tag{14}$$

where $d\mathbf{s}$ is the integral variable vector with the normal direction to the integral area A on the body surface. All results are provided for an averaging area A of 1 cm^2 (except 2-dimensioal TPD distributions provided in Sections 3.2 and 3.3). Note that the TPD is identical to the absorbed power density as defined in [6] and to the epithelial power density as defined by [7].

2.4. Numerical Method: Patch Antenna Arrays

Scenario 7 was analyzed numerically using the finite integration technique (FIT) implemented in CST Studio Suite 2019. The convergence is reached by setting a finer mesh around the air/phantom interface (i.e., $1 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$) and larger beyond (i.e., 0.356 mm corresponding to $\lambda_g/50$, where λ_g is the guided wavelength in the phantom). Open boundaries are used representing the free-space conditions (i.e., no reflected field at the boundaries of the computational volume). The number of mesh cells varies from 26 to 80 million with the antenna/phantom separation distance. Typical duration of single simulation varies from 35 to 75 min using high-performance workstations with accelerators (Xeon Gold 6140, 768 Go RAM, NVIDIA Quadro GV100; Dell, TX, USA).

3. Results

To analyze the TPD variations due to the antenna/body coupling, the following figure of merit is defined:

$$Y_{(m,n)} = \frac{\text{TPD}_m}{\text{TPD}_n}, \tag{15}$$

where TPD_m and TPD_n are the TPD from exposure scenarios m and n , respectively, with $m \in \{2, 4, 6, 7\}$ and $n \in \{1, 3, 5\}$. In practice, the separation distance between a wireless device and its user may vary. To account for this variation during exposure, we also calculated the floating average $\bar{Y}_{(m,n)}$ over the range of distances $\Delta d \in \{1, 3, 5\} \text{ mm}$.

3.1. Fundamental Limits: Plane-Wave Illumination

First, we assess the TPD changes due to presence of a PEC layer in front of the skin model for plane-wave illumination (scenarios 1 and 2). To this end, TPD_1 , TPD_2 , and $Y_{(2,1)}$ are calculated using (3), (4), (7), and (15) for $E_0 = 10 \text{ V/m}$ and $R_1 = -0.59 + j0.16$ (Figure 4).

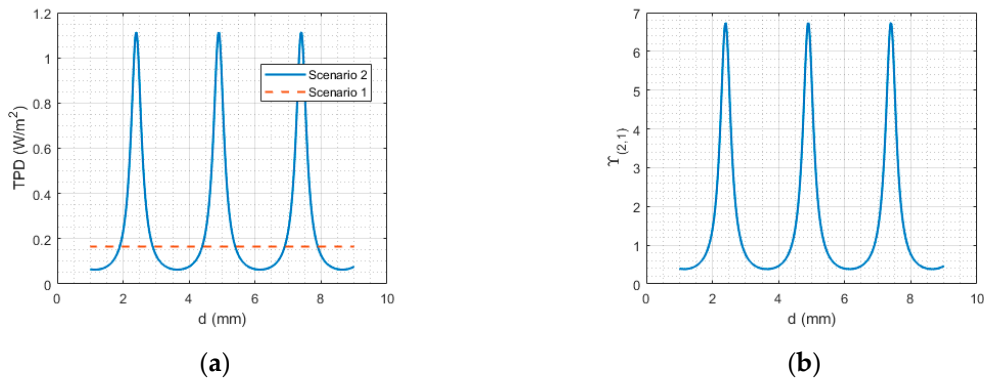


Figure 4. Plane-wave illumination without (scenario 1) and with (scenario 2) PEC: (a) transmitted power density (TPD); (b) TPD variations due to presence of PEC.

Figure 4 shows that the TPD at the surface of the phantom is strongly altered by the presence of PEC (increase up to 574% and decrease down to 61.7%). $Y_{(2,1)}$ can be expressed as:

$$Y_{(2,1)} = \frac{TPD_2}{TPD_1} = \frac{|T_1 \frac{1}{1+e^{-j2dk_0 R_1}} \mathbf{E}_{inc}|^2}{|T_1 \mathbf{E}_{inc}|^2} = \left| \frac{1}{1+e^{-j2dk_0 R_1}} \right|^2 \quad (16)$$

The positions of $Y_{(2,1)}$ maxima and minima ($d_{max}^{Y(2,1)}$ and $d_{min}^{Y(2,1)}$) depend on the phase of R_1 and given by:

$$d_{min}^{Y(2,1)} = \frac{\lfloor R_1 - \pi + \pi n \rfloor}{2k_0} \quad (17)$$

$$d_{max}^{Y(2,1)} = \frac{\lfloor R_1 - \pi + 2\pi n \rfloor}{2k_0} \quad (18)$$

where n is an integer number, $\lfloor R_1 \rfloor$ is the phase shift introduced by the phantom interface to the reflected plane-wave. The fundamental limits of $Y_{(2,1)}$ can be found by replacing (17) and (18) in (16):

$$\frac{1}{|1 + |R_1||^2} \leq Y_{(2,1)} \leq \frac{1}{|1 - |R_1||^2} \quad (19)$$

Equation (19) shows that the higher the magnitude of the phantom reflection coefficient, the higher the TPD variations. For example, for a wet skin model, the variations of TPD are more pronounced (increase up to 629% and decrease down to 62.3%, respectively). Note that these variations are also age-dependent as the tissue properties evolve with age [29]. In particular, for 5 year old children the enhancement increases to 640%. For the sake of brevity, in the rest of the paper, the analysis for wet skin and age-dependent effects will be omitted (except Section 3.3). Table 1 provides the maximum and minimum $\bar{Y}_{(m,n)}$. The results show that the average TPD increases due to the presence of PEC (roughly a 60% increase for $\Delta d = 5$ mm).

Table 1. Average $\bar{Y}_{(2,1)}$ over Δd .

Δd (mm)	1	3	5
$\max \bar{Y}_{(2,1)}$	3.21	2.14	1.61
$\min \bar{Y}_{(2,1)}$	0.43	1.40	1.59

Next, the free-space losses are taken into account in the analysis (scenarios 3 and 4). TPD_3 , TPD_4 , and $Y_{(4,3)}$ are calculated using (5), (6), (7), and (15) (Figure 5).

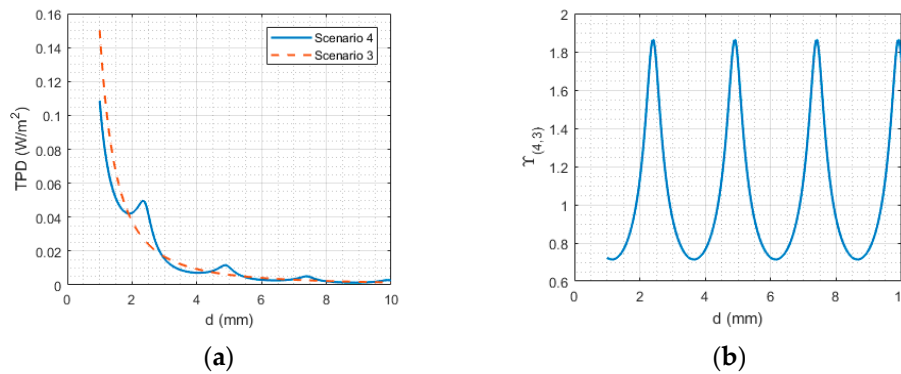


Figure 5. Plane-wave illumination with free-space losses without (scenario 3) and with (scenarios 4) PEC: (a) TPD; (b) TPD variations due to presence of PEC.

TPD₄ demonstrates a damped oscillatory behavior around TPD₃ (increase up to 80% and decrease down to 28%). Due to the free-space loss, the oscillation amplitude of $Y_{(4,3)}$ is lower compared to $Y_{(2,1)}$. The averaged TPD over distance increases due to the presence of PEC (i.e., maximum increase of 41%, 15%, 5% for $\Delta d = 1$ mm, 3 mm, 5 mm, respectively) (Table 2).

Table 2. Average $\bar{Y}_{(4,3)}$ over Δd .

Δd (mm)	1	3	5
$\max \bar{Y}_{(4,3)}$	1.41	1.15	1.05
$\min \bar{Y}_{(4,3)}$	0.75	0.99	1.05

3.2. Fundamental Limits: Equivalent Sources

Here, we consider the equivalent sources corresponding to the patch antenna arrays radiating in free space (Figure 2). This allows us to model the case where the free-space antenna matching, efficiency, and radiated field are preserved and not modified by the phantom (scenarios 5 and 6). TPD₅, TPD₆, and $Y_{(6,5)}$ are calculated from Equations (8)–(15) (Figure 6a–e).

Significant differences in $Y_{(6,5)}$ maxima and, to a smaller extent, minima between the antenna-equivalent sources are noted for $d < 25$ mm (Figure 6e). The TPD increases (decreases) up to (down to) 174% (39%), 342% (54%), 421% (54.7%), and 497% (54.7%) for the SPA, 2 × 2 PAA, 2 × 4 PAA, and 4 × 4 PAA, respectively. This is due to the differences in the attenuation rate of the peak power density in free-space PD_{fs} of the antenna-equivalent sources (Figure 6f). Indeed, when the PD_{fs} attenuation rate is higher, $Y_{(6,5)}$ is lower. At $d = 35$ mm, $Y_{(6,5)}$ of all antenna-equivalent sources converges to the same oscillatory function (with relative difference < 10%) (Figure 6e). Figure 7 shows that as d increases, $Y_{(6,5)}$ converges to $Y_{(4,3)}$ as the power density in free-space decreases as $1/d^2$ in the far-field. Maximum values of $\bar{Y}_{(6,5)}$ are obtained for 4 × 4 PAA (i.e., the maximum increase of 247%, 124%, 76% for $\Delta d = 1$ mm, 3mm, 5mm, respectively) (Table 3). Note that for the antenna-equivalent sources $\max \bar{Y}$ is up to 2.5 times higher compared to the plane wave with free-space losses (compare Tables 2 and 3).

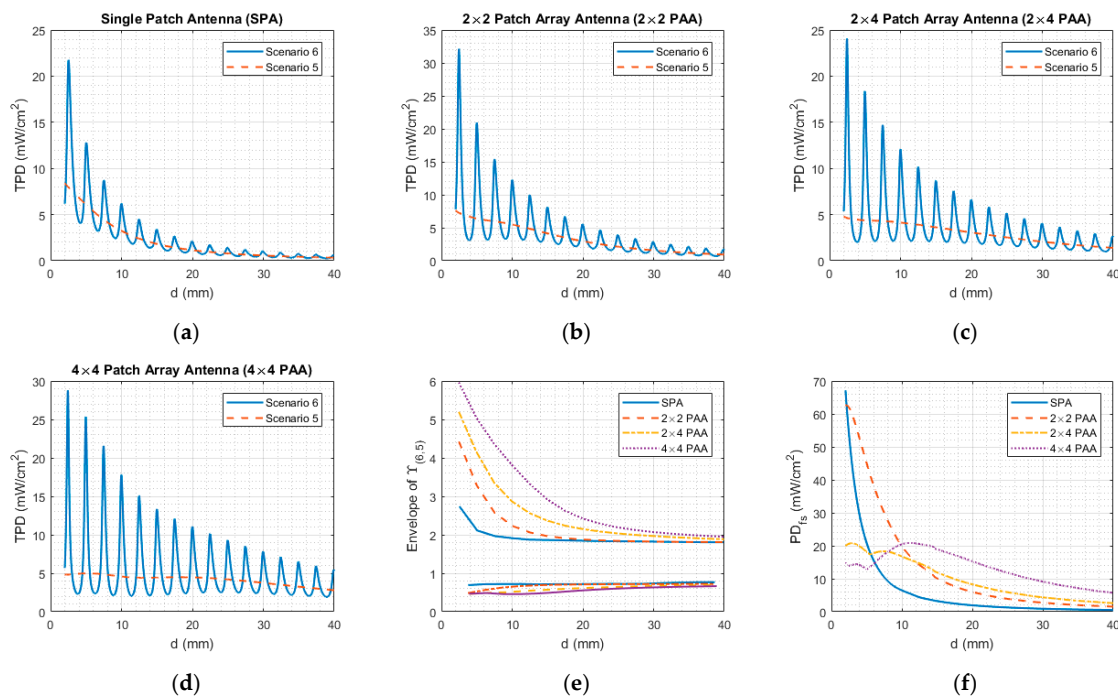


Figure 6. Equivalent sources without (scenario 5) and with (scenario 6) PEC: (a) peak TPD from SPA; (b) peak TPD from 2 × 2 PAA; (c) peak TPD from 2 × 4 PAA; (d) peak TPD from 4 × 4 PAA; (e) envelopes (min. and max.) of $Y_{(6,5)}$; (f) free-space peak power density.

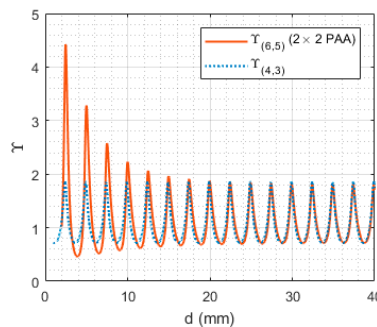


Figure 7. TPD variations due to presence of PEC: $Y_{(4,3)}$ and $Y_{(6,5)}$ for 2 × 2 PAA equivalent source.

Table 3. Average $Y_{(6,5)}$ over Δd .

	SPA			2 × 2 PAA			2 × 4 PAA			4 × 4 PAA		
Δd (mm)	1	3	5	1	3	5	1	3	5	1	3	5
$\max \bar{Y}_{(6,5)}$	2.29	1.56	1.37	3.08	1.89	1.58	3.31	2.08	1.69	3.47	2.24	1.76
$\min \bar{Y}_{(6,5)}$	0.76	1.13	1.20	0.59	1.13	1.19	0.58	1.13	1.20	0.59	1.14	1.21

To obtain a deeper insight into the TPD variations, we analyzed the changes in the spatial distribution of TPD for the SPA equivalent source due to the presence of PEC (Figure 8). The distribution of TPD_6 is affected by the presence of PEC and evolves with d . For d corresponding to the maximum TPD (i.e., 4.75 mm, 7.25 mm, 17.25 mm), the absorbed power density is concentrated around its maximum. It extends progressively over a larger surface when d approaches the value corresponding to TPD minima (i.e., 6.5 mm, 9.0 mm, 18.75 mm). When the spatial distribution of TPD is concentrated around its maxima, the spatial averaging area has a stronger impact on the mean TPD, which rapidly decreases with the averaging area (e.g., the ratio between TPD averaged over 1 cm² and 4 cm² equals to 3.26 and 1.86 for $d = 4.75$ and 6.5 mm, respectively).

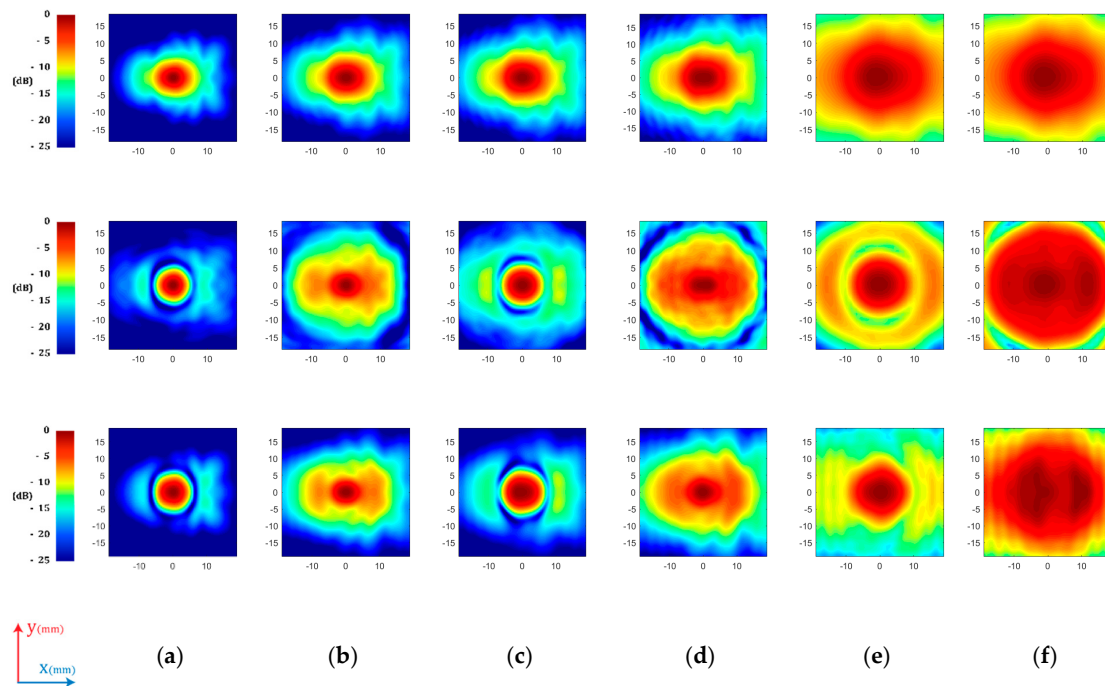


Figure 8. TPD distribution for the SPA equivalent source without (top line, scenario 5) and with PEC (middle line, scenario 6) and for the SPA (bottom line, scenario 7) normalized to its maximum at: (a) $d = 4.75$ mm; (b) $d = 6.5$ mm; (c) $d = 7.25$ mm; (d) $d = 9.0$ mm; (e) $d = 17.25$ mm; (f) $d = 18.75$ mm. The sets $d = (4.75; 7.25; 17.25)$ mm and $d = (6.5; 9.0; 18.75)$ mm correspond to the TPD maxima and minima, respectively.

The cross-section distributions along x -axis at $y = 0$ mm of the x component of E_{Direct} , E_{Total} , and E_R are plotted in Figure 9. The amplitude of E_{Total} is directly related to the phase difference between E_{Direct} and E_R . For $d = 7.25$ mm, E_{Direct} is in phase with E_R around $x = 0$ mm. This null phase difference evolves periodically along the x -axis resulting in either constructive or destructive interferences. Consequently, this results in an enhancement of the E_{Total} amplitude for $x \in (-5.0; 5.0)$ mm and in a decrease for $x \in (-10; -5) \cup (5; 10)$ mm, thus explaining the higher spatial gradient of TPD in Figure 8a,c,e (middle line, scenario 6). On the other hand, for $d = 9.0$ mm, E_{Direct} and E_R are out of phase at $x = 0$ mm. This results in a decrease in the E_{Total} for $x = (-5.0; 5.0)$ mm and its enhancement for $x = (-10; -5) \cup (5; 10)$ mm, resulting in spread of TPD in Figure 8b,d,f (middle line, scenario 6). Note that similar observations were made for the y and z components of the field (for the sake of brevity, the data are not shown).

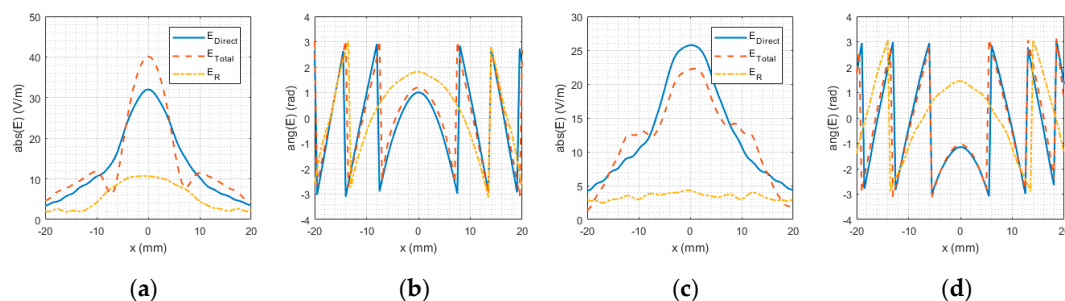


Figure 9. Cross-section of the x component of E_{Total} , E_{Direct} , and E_R at $d = 7.25$ mm (TPD local maximum): (a) magnitude; (b) phase and at $d = 9.0$ mm (TPD local minimum): (c) magnitude; (d) phase.

3.3. Patch Antenna Arrays

When an antenna is located in the vicinity of a scatter, its matching and radiation are altered. To exclude the effect of the antenna mismatch, TPD_7 is normalized to $(1-S_{11/Ph}^2)$ and TPD_5 to $(1-S_{11/FS}^2)$, where $S_{11/Ph}$ and $S_{11/FS}$ are S_{11} of the antenna in the presence of the phantom and in free space, respectively. Note that modern wireless devices are equipped with matching networks designed to compensate for the mismatch.

The changes in the TPD due to the antenna/phantom coupling (scenarios 5 and 7) are shown in Figure 10. For $d < d_r$, where d_r denotes the interface between the reactive and radiating near-field regions, the changes in term of the absolute value of TPD are more pronounced (Figure 10a–d). In terms of the relative variations, for this range of d , the TPD increases up to 79.2%, 71.6%, and 43.8% and decreases down to 4.4%, 9.75%, and 9.84% for 2×2 PAA, 2×4 PAA, and 4×4 PAA, respectively (Figure 10e–h). The results shown in Figure 10i demonstrate that there is no direct correlation between $Y_{(7,5)}$ and the source directivity. Note that $Y_{(7,5)}$ is lower compared to $Y_{(6,5)}$. This difference is attributed, to a smaller extent, to losses inside the antenna (15.7%, 18.6%, 27.8%, 33% in respect to the total accepted power at $d = 2.25$ mm and for SPA, 2×2 PAA, 2×4 PAA, and 4×4 PAA, respectively) and, to a larger extent, to the scattering properties of the antennas. The higher the scattering, the lower the TPD variations.

For $d > d_r$, the TPD increases up to 84.11%, 79.2%, 95.5%, and 53.3% and decreases down to 25.7%, 30.1%, 20.3%, and 23.9% for SPA, 2×2 PAA, 2×4 PAA, and 4×4 PAA, respectively (Figure 10e–h). The variations are higher for wet skin (increase up to 98.25% and decrease down to 32.5%) and children (increase up to 103.3% and decrease down to 33.7%). $Y_{(7,5)}$ converges to $Y_{(6,5)}$. For $d \gg d_r$, $Y_{(7,5)} \simeq Y_{(6,5)} \simeq Y_{(4,3)}$ as the power density decreases as $1/d^2$ in the far-field (Figures 7 and 10e–h). The antenna substrate in scenario 7 introduces a phase shift between $Y_{(7,5)}$ and $Y_{(6,5)}$ (Figure 10e–h). The maximum values of $\max \bar{Y}_{(7,5)}$ are obtained for 2×4 PAA (i.e., increase up to 52%, 25%, 21% for $\Delta d = 1$ mm, 3 mm, 5 mm, respectively) (Table 4). It is worthy to note that the ground plane size impacts the TPD variations. For instance for the SPA, the TPD variations increase with size until the ground plane becomes large enough (e.g., for ground plane dimensions of 2.5×2.5 to 10×10 mm², $Y_{(7,5)}$ increases from 10% to 79%).

Figure 8 top line (scenario 5) and bottom line (scenario 7) show that the spatial distribution of TPD_7 is altered by the antenna/phantom interactions in a similar way as in scenario 6. This suggests that the exact distribution of TPD cannot be retrieved from measurements of the incident power density in free-space in absence of the body model.

Table 4. Average $Y_{(7,5)}$ over Δd .

	SPA			2 × 2 PAA			2 × 4 PAA			4 × 4 PAA		
Δd (mm)	1	3	5	1	3	5	1	3	5	1	3	5
$\max \bar{Y}_{(7,5)}$	1.51	1.20	1.10	1.47	1.22	1.14	1.52	1.25	1.21	1.37	1.12	1.12
$\min \bar{Y}_{(7,5)}$	0.74	0.99	1.04	0.73	0.98	1.03	0.82	1.08	1.11	0.78	1.00	1.03

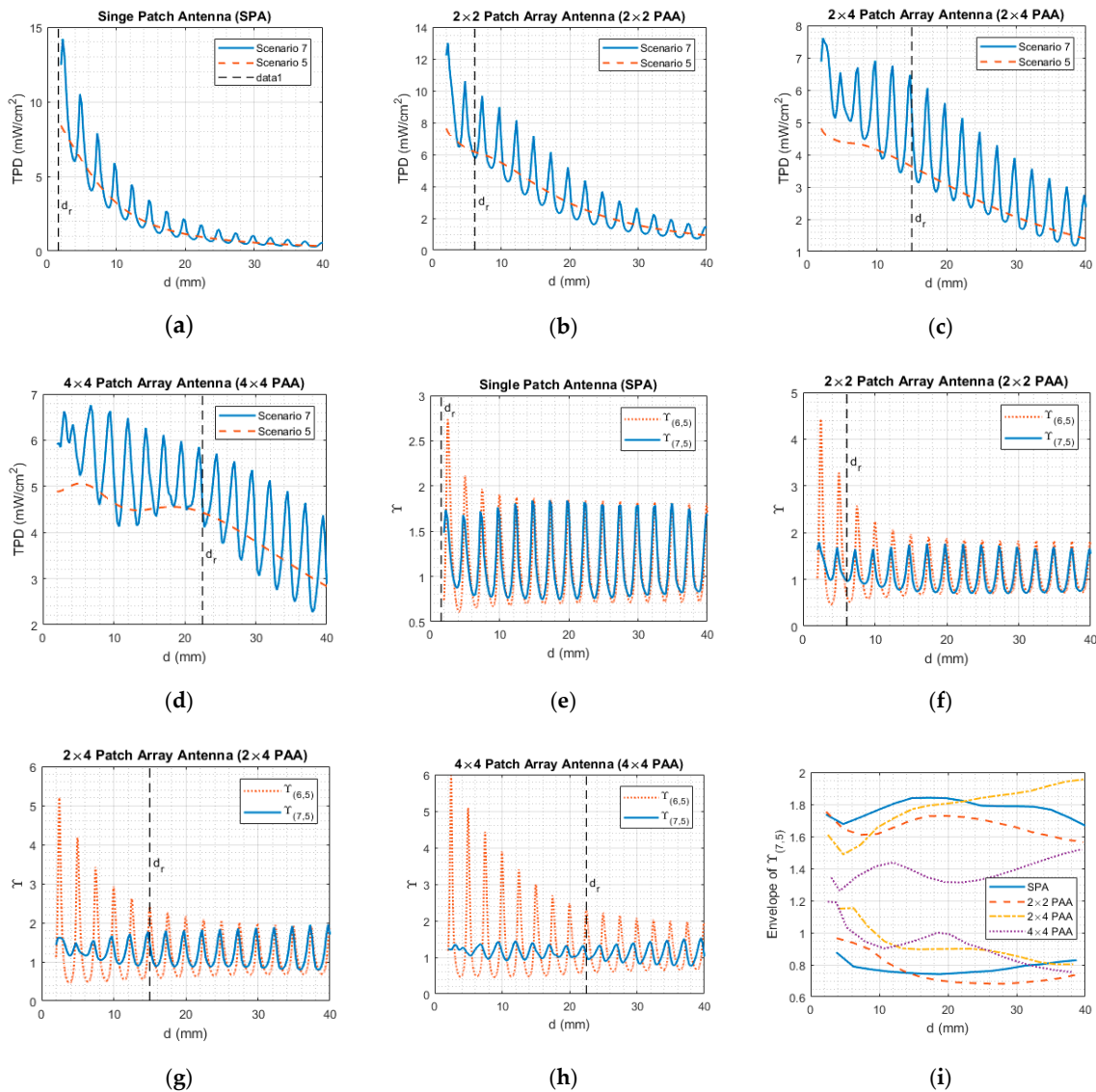


Figure 10. Patch antenna arrays and their corresponding equivalent sources (scenarios 5 and 7). Peak TPD of (a) SPA; (b) 2×2 PAA; (c) 2×4 PAA; (d) 4×4 PAA. TPD variations due to antenna/phantom coupling: (e) SPA; (f) 2×2 PAA; (g) 2×4 PAA; (h) 4×4 PAA. The interface between the reactive and radiating near-field regions are denoted with $d_r = 0.62 \sqrt{D^3 / \lambda}$, where λ_0 is the free-space wavelength and D is the largest dimension of the patch array elements [30]. (i) Envelope of $Y_{(7,5)}$.

4. Conclusions

In this study, we analyzed the impact of the near-field antenna/body interactions on TPD at 60 GHz. To assess the variations of TPD due to presence of a skin-equivalent model, sources of increasing complexity were considered, including plane wave with and without a PEC, plane wave with free-space losses, antenna-equivalent sources with and without a PEC, and patch antenna arrays.

The spatial distribution of the TPD is impacted by the presence of a body due to constructive or destructive interferences impacting both peak and averaged TPD. Our results demonstrate that, for all scenarios considered in this study, the presence of the body in the vicinity of a source results in an increase in the average TPD. The local TPD variations depend on the source/body separation distance. The TPD enhancement due to presence of the human body reaches 574% and 80% for the plane-wave excitation with and without free-space losses, respectively. For the antenna-equivalent sources, the presence of a PEC increases (decreases) local TPD from 174% to 497% (39% to 54.7%)

depending on the number of patches (minimum and maximum variations are observed for SPA and 4×4 PAA antenna-equivalent sources, respectively). Note that these variations are higher compared to the plane-wave excitation with free-space losses. The variations decrease for realistic topologies of the patch antenna arrays (increase up to 95.5% observed for 2×4 PAA and decrease down to 30.1% observed for 2×2 PAA). Note that the amplitude of TPD variations also depends on the reflection coefficient at the air/skin interface. For instance, the variations are higher for wet skin (increase up to 98.25% and decrease down to 32.5%) and for children (increase up to 103.3% and decrease down to 33.7%).

These results suggest that, due to antenna/body interactions, the exact TPD distribution, and as a result the peak and averaged values of TPD, cannot be retrieved from free-space measurements of the incident PD in the absence of a human body model. Therefore, for accurate measurements of the absorbed and epithelial power density, used as the main dosimetric quantities > 6 GHz, it is important to perform measurements under conditions where the wireless device under test is perturbed in the same way as by the presence of the human body in realistic use case scenarios.

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Appendix A

In scenarios 2, 4, and 6, a part of the incident field is transmitted to the skin model, whereas another part is reflected. This latter propagates towards the PEC layer where it is reflected back towards the skin-model. This forth and backpropagation keeps going until the amplitude of the field inside the cavity vanishes after n iterations. The total transmitted field is calculated as:

Appendix A.1. Scenario 2

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}_{\text{tr}} &= T_1 \mathbf{E}_{\text{inc}} + T_1 (e^{-j2dk_0 R_2 R_1}) \mathbf{E}_{\text{inc}} + \dots + T_1 (e^{-j2dk_0 R_2 R_1})^n \mathbf{E}_{\text{inc}} \\ &= T_1 \left(1 + (e^{-j2dk_0 R_2 R_1})^1 + \dots + (e^{-j2dk_0 R_2 R_1})^n \right) \mathbf{E}_{\text{inc}} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A1})$$

Equation (A1) is a geometric series with a common ratio $q = e^{-2dk_0 R_2 R_1}$. Since $|q| < 1$, (A1) converges to the following expression for $n \rightarrow \infty$:

$$\mathbf{E}_{\text{tr}} = T_1 \frac{1}{1 - e^{-j2dk_0 R_2 R_1}} \mathbf{E}_{\text{inc}} \quad (\text{A2})$$

with $R_2 = -1$, (A2) becomes:

$$\mathbf{E}_{\text{tr}} = T_1 \frac{1}{1 + e^{-j2dk_0 R_1}} \mathbf{E}_{\text{inc}} \quad (\text{A3})$$

Appendix A.2. Scenario 4

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}_{tr} &= T_1 E_0 e^{-jk_0 d} f(d) \hat{x} + T_1 E_0 e^{-jk_0 d} f(3d) (e^{-j2dk_0} R_2 R_1) \hat{x} + \dots \\ &+ T_1 E_0 e^{-jk_0 d} f((2n+1)d) (e^{-j2dk_0} R_2 R_1)^n \hat{x} \\ &= T_1 E_0 e^{-jk_0 d} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f((2n+1)d) (e^{-j2dk_0} R_2 R_1)^n \hat{x} \end{aligned} \quad (A4)$$

with with $R_1 = -1$, (A4) can be expressed as:

$$\mathbf{E}_{tr} = T_1 \mathbf{E}'_{inc} + T_1 E_0 e^{-jk_0 d} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-e^{-j2dk_0} R_1)^n f((2n+1)d) \hat{x}. \quad (A5)$$

Appendix A.3. Scenario 6

$$\hat{\mathbf{E}}_{tr}^{\parallel}(\mathbf{K}) = \Pi_1 \hat{\mathbf{E}}_{inc}^{\parallel} + \Pi_1 (P(\mathbf{K}, 2d)) \Gamma_2 \Gamma_1 \hat{\mathbf{E}}_{inc}^{\parallel} + \dots + \Pi_1 ((P(\mathbf{K}, l)) \Gamma_2 \Gamma_1)^n \hat{\mathbf{E}}_{inc}^{\parallel}. \quad (A6)$$

Equation (A6) is a geometric series, called also Neumann series [31], with a common ratio $q = (P(\mathbf{K}, 2d)) \Gamma_2 \Gamma_1$ is 2×2 matrix. It converges if for each eigenvalue (λ_i), $|\lambda_i| < 1$. This condition was assessed and found to be satisfied. The geometric series (A6) is then expressed as follow for $n \rightarrow \infty$:

$$\hat{\mathbf{E}}_{tr}^{\parallel}(\mathbf{K}) = \Pi_1 (I - (P(\mathbf{K}, 2d)) \Gamma_2 \Gamma_1)^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{E}}_{inc}^{\parallel}. \quad (A7)$$

where I is the identity matrix. With $\Gamma_2 = -I$, the total transmitted field is expressed by:

$$\hat{\mathbf{E}}_{tr}^{\parallel}(\mathbf{K}) = \Pi_1 (I + (P(\mathbf{K}, 2d)) \Gamma_1)^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{E}}_{inc}^{\parallel}. \quad (A8)$$

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